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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/488,471	01/20/2000	Neelakantan Sundaresan	AM9-99-0201	4485

7590

11/20/2002

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, TAM V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 11/20/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/488,471

Applicant(s)

SUNDARESAN, NEELAKANTAN

Examiner

Tam V Nguyen

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 October 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 2172

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-24 are pending in this action. Claims 1-24 are presented for examination. This office action is in response to the preliminary amendment dated 10/28/02.

Continued Prosecution Application

2. The request filed on 10/28/02 for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) under 37 CFR 1.53(d) based on parent Application No. 09488471 is acceptable and a CPA has been established. An action on the CPA follows.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over West et al. (US 6175833B1) in view of Pirolli et al. (US 6272507B1).

Re claims 1, 9, and 17, West discloses an off-line ranking system for receiving any of users' off-line surveys or feedback about businesses, (col. 2, lines 12-25 and col. 7, lines 23-40); the off-line ranking system generating rating data from the of the users'

Art Unit: 2172

off-line surveys or feedback, (col. 7, lines 23-40 and col. 9, lines 49-66); wherein the off-line ranking system indexes the rating data, (col. 5, lines 7-42). West shows in fig. 2 survey index table allowing the user to rank the rating data based on the total number of voting and the ranking of the rating of the data by the percentage; a ranking repository for storing the rating data indexed by the off-line ranking system, (col. 5, lines 7-42). West also shows the total number of voting and the ranking of the rating data by the percentage automatically stored in the database.

West does not explicitly disclose "wherein the rating data correlates higher quality search matches to higher business satisfaction rating; and a result sorter for sorting query result generated by the search engine, based on the rating data from the ranking repository, and for generating ranked matches."

However Pirolli shows wherein the rating data correlates higher quality search matches to higher business satisfaction rating, (col. 3, lines 31-col. 4, lines 60 and col. 2, lines 65-68). Pirolli shows the ranking of the search results based on the ranking information, so the user can retrieve the best results based the ranking information not just matching the keyword inputted; and a result sorter for sorting query result generated by the search engine, based on the rating data from the ranking repository, and for generating ranked matches, (col. 3, lines 31-col. 4, lines 60 and col. 2, lines 65-68). Pirolli also shows the ranking results based on historical patterns and information about a current context of interest of a user or group; therefore, when a user requests for an information, the ranking system will generate the results based on the patterns and most interests context.

Art Unit: 2172

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of West with the teaching of Pirolli, so the user can rely on the ranking system of the search results to determine which documents or businesses should be ^{viewed}~~view~~ first.

Re claims 2, 10, and 18, Pirolli further discloses a search results transformer that converts the ranked matches to a user browsable form, (col. 3, lines 31-col. 4, lines 50).

Re claims 3, 11, and 19, Pirolli further discloses an indexing engine that indexes web documents to generate indexed data, (col. 3, lines 31-col. 4, lines 50).

Re claims 4, 12, and 20, West further discloses a metadata repository for storing web documents that have been downloaded off-line, (col. 7, lines 22-40).

Re claims 5, 13, and 21, Pirolli further discloses a query transformer which, when prompted by a query, applies a query request to the indexed data and generates the query results, (col. 3, lines 31-col. 4, lines 50).

Re claims 6, 14, and 22, Pirolli further discloses the on-line source includes an on-line feedback with annotations, (col. 3, lines 31-col. 4, lines 50).

Art Unit: 2172

Re claims 7, 15, and 23, West further discloses the off-line source includes any one or more of a questionnaire, a survey, or a web based rating service, (col. 5, lines 28-col. 6, lines 3).

Re claims 8, 16, and 24, West further discloses the interactive criteria assess the quality of a business in terms of any one or more of: customer satisfaction, professionalism, cost, and ease of use of a product or service, (col. 4, lines 18-63).

Art Unit: 2172

Contact Information

6. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tam V Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3735. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM-5: 00PM.

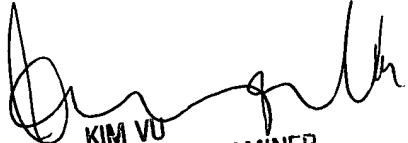
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Yen Vu can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for formal communications and (703) 746-7240 for informal communications.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22202. Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

8. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

TV:tv

11/12/02


KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100